

UPDATE
Christ United Methodist Church
June 9, 2015

**Harlem Road at Saratoga Road
Amherst, New York**

“Living Christ’s ways and exploding with love and service”

EVERYONE is WELCOME

SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH
9:00 – Praise Celebration Worship
FaithXpress, Soul Strength will resume in September
11:00 – Traditional Style Worship

***Why not bring a Friend this week and share the Love and Grace of
God?***

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: www.Christchurchamherst.org
Or call us at: 716-839-2460

Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-United-Methodist-Church-Amherst/294709713921168?ref=hl>
Follow us on Twitter
@CUMCamherst

Hi Everyone:

So, this is my last “update” to all of you. It has been fun, it has been a learning experience, and it has been great. It is difficult to express how much I appreciate the support, encouragement and grace extended to me by the Christ Church congregation. You have blessed me, embraced me, and walked with me through the four years we have had together: THANK YOU. I want to thank all of you who have called, emailed, or just stopped by to spend some time with me this past week or so. I am grateful to all of you who have made the effort!

Here is what is happening at Christ Church:

1. Attendance last Sunday was about 100. We celebrated our high school and college graduates (and one of them was actually present!). Thank you to the Christian Education team for remembering and celebrating our graduates!

2. This Sunday: will be my last Sunday to preach here at Christ Church as your pastor. We'll be using as our Bible reading Philippians 1:3-7a and my sermon is titled: "So Long and Thanks . . ." Rumor has it that following worship on the 14th of June there will be a special "farewell" gathering with surprises (oooooh I like surprises). I suspect you will all enjoy a little roast BJ for lunch and we will have a formal chance to say good bye. Thank you, all of you, who are pulling this together!

3. In our prayers: Charles Terranova (son of Chuck and Sue) has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma; Jacob Rhinehart, Ann Burdette, Mitch Mooney, Marion Wenner, David Lawson (second eye surgery soon), Debbie Suggs, Glenn Hurst, Ruth Swenson, Jan Rhinehart, Todd and Mary Jo Evans, Ed Maker, Sue and Harley Estee, Sharon Ferrelli, Bob Nachbar, Laney Fuller, Dorothy Brown, Brian Martin, Edmond Wrycza, Lois Lewis, Barbara Clinton, Tom Davis, Fred and Lynda Painton, Guy Castellino, Bim Rowlands, Nicky Sebastiano, Ruth Kitson, Ruth Luss, Shirley Downey, Alice Schmidt, and Diane Love Joy. Also remember our family and friends who are serving in the U.S. military (Alex, Ian, Lindsey) and all who are in harm's way.

4. BJ's moving truck comes tomorrow . . . Parsonage Volunteer Work Day is scheduled for Saturday June 20th 9am - 2pm. Bring your favorite bucket and cleaning supplies! Pastor BJ will be cleaning up as he moves out, but we need to do the windows, the drapes, "clean behind the fridge" that kind of thing. We'll also be pulling some weeds and hosing down the garage. Can you help??? See you Saturday the 20th!

5. This Week at Christ Church:

Tuesday, June 9 – Uganda Packing Day 6:00p.m.

Stewardship and Finance 7:00p.m.

Wednesday, June 10 – 7:00p.m. Choir Party

Thursday, June 11 – 10:00a.m. Bible Study in Wesley Room

Saturday, June 13 – Men's Group Food Pantry work outing 10:00a.m.

Sunday, June 14 – NOON – Pastor BJ's celebration of ministry

6. Beechwood Pianos For Sale/and or Free!

Beechwood has been blessed with the sound of music over the years with several pianos in each village. A resident who recently moved into Beechwood has a very lovely and high quality baby grand piano which he is donating to Beechwood. However, that leaves us with the need to find a good home for our present baby grand piano in the auditorium. A great piano for home, church or school!!!! Chickering Ebony Baby Grand Piano and Bench (1971) - Appraised at \$4,000 or best offer. Rich and smooth action. Buyer responsible for moving. ALSO: 2 Free Pianos- As is -There are two pianos that need a good home and Beechwood would be willing to "gift." One is located in the auditorium . . . a small spinet upright located under the windows facing the atrium. The other is in the hallway outside of the Wesley Dining Room . . . it is a baby grand which needs some key work, etc. but otherwise sounds great. *If you are interested or know of anyone who is interested - please have them contact Cheryl Wasson, Dir. of Dev./Marketing at 810-7370. Feel free to call me with any questions. Thank you!*

7. Happy Birthday this week:

June 9 – Charlotte Davis
June 10 – Samantha Willhauck
June 12 – Patricia Zaleski
June 13 – Samuel Suggs
June 14 – Richard Metzler
June 17 – Laura Smith

8. Happy Anniversary this week:

June 9 – Woody and Jan Rhinehart (59)
June 13 – Barry and Jean Wood (51)
June 15 – Steven and Kathleen Morris Mong (2)
June 15 – Scott and Viki Smith (30)

9. Uganda Mission 2015

The Uganda Mission Team wants to thank everyone for their generosity and contributions. Together we make a difference!

John and Brandon Miller, Viki and Hannah Smith, Janelle Martin, Erisawe Briere, Kathryn Weaver and B.J. Norrix will depart for Uganda on Sunday June 28 and will return on Tuesday, July 14. **FOCUS of the Mission:** We will be working with two clinics (at Lusanja and Nabukondo) we will be leading two Nexus graduations (at Rakai and

Nakasangola) we will be working on a church building at a school and holding at least one youth rally. We will be dedicating a new well (at Gombe) and a new church at Seeta. There will be time taken to visit the source of the Nile river in Jinja and a Game Preserve near Rakai.

Please PRAY FOR US! We will have 8 suitcases of clothing/medical/school/misc. supplies for our Uganda friends as well as substantial additional resources.

10. G-FORCE (God's Love in Action) VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is July 13-17.

Children Pre-K through Grade 5 will be on the move exploring and serving God and others with active love! Enjoy music that will energize your ears and bodies, Bible fun, super science projects, cool art creations, great games, delicious snacks and hands-on helping projects.

To register: http://2015.cokesburyvbs.com/ACC_CUMC

It all begins with **MOTION COMMOTION** – A community Kick-Off Event on July 11 from 10 to Noon.

Join the fun. Games, Snacks, Bike and Helmet Safety Checks by the Amherst Police Department.

Bring your bikes, skates, scooters, skateboards, etc. to decorate. Bring your friends!!

11. **STAR WARS NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK – July 18 first pitch is 6:05**

Registration forms and ticket sales available at Church or in the June CALLER

12. Through the Bible in a year: readings are available through the Web site:

<http://christchurchamherst.org>

Or contact Janelle in the church office.

13. A word about giving from our Stewardship and Finance Chair, Brad Loliger: Now you can make **ONLINE contributions to Christ Church!** You can make a one-time donation, or schedule a recurring electronic contribution. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an interrupted basis.

Get Started Today!

1. Visit ChristChurchAmherst.org
2. Click on the Donate tab at the top

3. Click on Donate Now button to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions.

14. MISSION NEWS

FOOD PANTRY this week – Kid's snacks

15. Diane Klenk is working with our local Veterans Hospital regarding supplies for the inpatient, day programs and homeless. Below are needed items. If you can help see Diane or bring these items to the church and leave them in the container provided in Crafts Hall. **Needed items:** Socks, underwear, T-shirts (White, L to XXXL, V-neck), towels, Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors, mouthwash, nail clippers, body wash, combs, shaving cream, pocket mirrors, chap stick – be sure mouth wash and other items are “Alcohol free”); Gift cards (McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Tops); Patriotic throws or lap blankets, books and audio books, DVDs.

Parting Thought

I have to confess to no small amount of melancholy this week. The Christ Church family has been profoundly good to me. You welcomed me, you engaged my ideas, you worked with me, walked with me, served with me and, I believe, we are a much stronger church today than we were in 2011. All the vital signs are on the rise – new families, new children, engagement in mission and ministry – and, walking away just as we are starting to climb is not an easy thing to do. The best years for Christ Church are yet to come and you have a new and excellent pastoral leader in Rev. Darryl Barrow to lead you forward. Words cannot express my appreciation for the hospitality I have experienced from all of you but especially the Fishers, Weavers and Markellos. Words cannot express my appreciation for all of you who have engaged my passion for the Ugandan people and our various projects there. Words cannot adequately express my appreciation to the great folks I have been blessed to work with as ministerial staff (both paid and unpaid) these past four years. We have laughed together, cried together, sweat together and, saving the best for last, followed Christ together in this great adventure we call the Christian life. We have traveled: John, Kathryn and Joe (and soon Viki, Hannah, Brandon, Janelle) journeyed to Uganda and a whole bunch of us journeyed to the Holy Land. Some of you traveled around the world and many more of you traveled across town to engage the kingdom in the name of Jesus.

I have been blessed by the Christ Church family and I will strive to extend that blessing to others.

My deepest prayer for all of you is to keep pressing in, keep going deeper in your faith and keep pressing on to building the Kingdom of God in this life,

We will meet again,

BJ